

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2006

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairman Jolene "Jo" Funk.

Members Present: Dick Blanchard; Chris Carazo; Jolene "Jo" Funk; Sandie Johnson; Mike McClure; and Wayne Wagner.

Others Present: Mike Fraser, City staff; Ron Rouse, City staff; Shawn Dunstan, City staff; Jeff Fawcett, Salina Waste Systems; Marie Nolan, KSAL; Ken Reitz, Images Recycling; and Christina Coiner, City staff.

Members Not Present: Sheila Bolieu; Paul "Bud" Deghand; Dick Duree; Nick Jefferson; Dan Kieborz; and Matt Wagoner.

II. Special Announcement/Presentations

A. Introduction of Christina Coiner, City of Salina Solid Waste Intern

Mike Fraser introduced Christina Coiner, Solid Waste Intern, to the Committee.

B. Committee Member Resignation - Nick Jefferson Will Be Moving To Wichita, KS

Mike Fraser announced that Committee member Nick Jefferson has resigned due to moving to Wichita, KS.

The City Clerk's office has the sign-up interest cards which will be processed for appointments on the 21st. Thus far, Mike Fraser was unaware of anyone who has signed up to serve on the Solid Waste Committee. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested, ask the individual to go to the City Clerk's office to fill out the form.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the February 9, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes

Wayne Wagner moved and Chris Carazo seconded a motion that all of the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion passed.

B. Updated Solid Waste Committee Member Contact List

Wayne Wagner noted that six members of the Committee are at the end of their term of service. Mike Fraser stated that reappointments will probably be made by the City Commission. It is expected that the names of those members who have expressed an interest to continue to serve on the Committee will be forwarded to the City Commission. On the 21st, the Commission will be making appointments. Mike Fraser also stated that the only individual who is at the end of the term who has not yet submitted his/her name for renewal is Sheila Bolieu. Since it has been difficult for Sheila to attend meetings, she has not submitted her name for consideration.

C. Operational Reports

1. Annual Landfill Tonnage Comparison Graph
2. Curbside Recycling Report
3. Yard Waste Composting Detail Chart
4. Household Hazardous Waste Facility Chart/Graphs
5. Free Yard Waste Days Chart
6. Free Landfill Days Charts
7. Mulching Mower Rebate Program Graph

D. Various Solid Waste Related Articles

E. Financial Statement on \$1 Per Ton Tipping Fees for Local Solid Waste Related Programs

F. Letter from KDHE on Salina/Saline County Solid Waste Management Plan Annual Review

G. Letter from KDHE on City Landfill Permit Renewal

Chris Carazo moved and Sandie Johnson seconded that the above Sections B through G of the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion passed.

IV. Staff Reports

A. City of Salina Composting Facility Study - (Mike Fraser)

In May of this year at a City Commission Study Session, the Commission was presented with information on various solid waste management issues. One of the issues was the possibility of the City of Salina constructing a composting facility on land purchased as part of the North Ohio Overpass Project. The land was purchased with Solid Waste funds, and therefore must be used for solid waste purposes.

The City Commission directed staff to contact Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc. (CDM) and have them develop a proposal for a City of Salina composting facility. This contract amendment would call for a feasibility study, development of an operational plan, site design, and with City Commission approval, CDM would then handle the permitting process paperwork with KDHE.

At this time, the City contracts for the diversion of yard waste and the acquisition of compost from Kanza Organics which is located west of Salina on Lightville Road. Kanza is paid \$5,775 per month or \$69,300 per year for the diversion of about an average 3,200 tons of City Sanitation yard waste materials. In addition, the City Parks Department is able to obtain unscreened compost for their purposes free of charge.

At the August 7, 2006 City Commission meeting, the City Commission approved a contract Amendment with CDM to create a Task 7 which would allow for the development of a feasibility study to consider several options for a complete composting facility. One would be a City owned and operated site, another would be a City owned and contractor operated/leased site, or a City owned site where the City of Salina is in partnership with a private business.

At the completion of this report, the City Commission would decide which operational structure, if any, should be pursued and developed. In addition, CDM would look at the practicality of moving the HHW Facility to the new site on Marymount Road, analyze the impact of accepting materials from residential/commercial sources versus just residential materials, and provide information on the effect of mixing biosolids from the Wastewater Treatment Plant with the compost.

Funds for this contract amendment have not been designated in the 2006 City budget. However, Solid Waste Venture Grant Funds are available from within the Solid Waste Fund to cover the \$36,500 expense. Prior to the meeting, Solid Waste Committee members were contacted by letter to express their feelings concerning this use of funds. One of the six members did not feel that Solid Waste Venture Grant funds should be used for this project; the other five were in support. Three of those supporting this use of funds expressed their feelings at the August 3, 2006 Sub-Committee Meeting for the review of Venture Grants. The Committee will need to formally consider an endorsement on the use of these Venture Grant funds for a City of Salina composting facility study.

One of the issues that we wanted to look at was the feasibility of building a composting site and locate several different types of solid waste operations at the site. When KDHE was looking at E-waste, the City was actively looking at applying for grant money to build an expanded HHW Facility out by Marymount Road. Since KDHE withdrew their proposal to present legislation for the E-waste recovery, the plan for a "green space" dried up. Now that we have the opportunity for CDM to look at the site from the standpoint of developing a composting facility, we still believe there is value in looking at including other types of solid waste operations at that site. No decisions have been made of where we are going. We continue to look at options.

Biosolids are a waste product that the Wastewater Treatment Plant produces. Some communities mix the treated biosolids with compost. As long as we are doing a study of a composting facility, we would like to learn more about mixing the two materials to see if this is an area for the City of Salina to pursue.

Mike Fraser stated the study should be completed by the end of November or first of December of this year.

B. Status Report on Landfill Operations - (Ron Rouse)

So far this year, from January 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006, we have collected 57,491 tons of refuse. This is an increased tonnage of 5,444 tons over the same time period of the previous year. The largest increase came from Saline County which increased by 7,000 tons. Ottawa County has a slight increase and Ellsworth and Lincoln County both have a slight decrease. McPherson County tonnage has dropped significantly with 1,578 tons due to the fact the McPherson County is taking more of the refuse to Reno County.

The Landfill offered two weeks of Free Landfill Days in the month of May to the citizens of Salina and residents of Saline County. During the event, the Landfill handled 1,465 loads of refuse totaling 578 tons of waste. This year we did about 100 loads more of refuse which was 50 more tons of waste than the previous year.

During the first half of this year, the recycling of bulk white metal was 141 tons. There will be another collection of bulk white metal this coming October. We have recycled 2,206 tires of mixed sizes this year. We have recycled 2 tons of lead acid batteries. The bicycle program with the prison is still going strong. Two truck loads have been picked up thus far and another load is ready to be picked up.

The wood chips which are generated from the Free Yard Waste Days are being utilized for slope enhancement in the working area of the Landfill. The chips are spread 6" to 8" thick across the side slopes and then compacted into the soil. The chips allow for control of soil erosion. This process has been working very well.

It was noted that the reason the County has increased in tonnage is due to an increase of roofing materials coming into the Landfill. It was also noted that McPherson has a choice of disposal sites which are the Reno County Landfill and our Landfill. Sometimes using the Reno County Landfill works better for them than our Landfill.

Our City Commission is considering a more aggressive approach to marketing our Landfill. Historically, the City Commission has set a maximum on the tonnage being brought into the Landfill from McPherson County. The maximum has been 90,000 tons per calendar year. Our consultant (CDM) has looked at efficiency rates and stated that we could accept 100,000 tons without a significant impact on our operation. The City Commission may set a new ceiling to the tonnage brought into the Landfill. The most recent study from CDM gave our Landfill an 81 year life span. Certainly the more materials brought into the Landfill, the shorter the life span of the Landfill. However, the current thinking on the part of the City was by allowing out-of-county materials to come into this site in order to help us with our current issues and also helping to keep the costs low. The extra materials coming into the Landfill help to pay the bills so that we can maintain the \$27 per ton fee. If tonnage is decreased, the fees will probably go up to cover costs. We want to look toward the future yet not be too overly concerned.

Technology is changing. The new technology for landfills is called “bio reactors”. This is a completely opposite concept than the dry cells which we currently have. Dry cells don’t want liquids in the cells.

If the City does a composting facility, Rodger Schneider at Kanza Composting has stated that he won’t be able to compete with the City and this will force him to go out of business. If that is the case, we will probably get the materials that he is currently receiving.

Mike Fraser stated that the City is in the budget process at this time and the rates at the Landfill may be increased from \$27 per ton to \$28 per ton. There may be some changes on how we do business at the Landfill such as who we do business with (out-of-county agreements), and on the amount of materials that are brought into the Landfill under these agreements.

Mike Fraser spoke briefly about the City running a composting facility. Currently, food waste is not being considered for a City run compost facility. We are only considering yard waste materials which are the same type of materials brought to the Free Yard Waste Days. Bio-solids are being considered. Food waste is another option to consider. However, the farther that we get away from a traditional type of yard waste composting facility, the more regulations that would be part of the facility.

C. Status Report on City Sanitation and Household Hazardous Waste Facility Operations - (Shawn Dunstan)

The Sanitation Division had two significant challenges to be accomplished in 2006. With the retirement of the Sanitation Superintendent Jim Hill who was with the Division for more than 30 years, the Division had the opportunity to promote within. By promoting from within, the Division’s current employees have an opportunity to take on added responsibility and be able to contribute new ideas on ways to better the Sanitation Division as a whole. As employees move up in classification, the promotion/hiring process will probably take the remainder of 2006 to complete.

Another significant up coming challenge will be the restructuring of the current collection routes which are providing service to over 14,300 customers. In doing the research, we have identified that there is an uneven distribution of the daily collection of customers. Our Monday and Thursday routes are currently the largest and most challenging for the Division to accomplish within an 8 hour workday. In addition, we have found that the largest residential growth in our community is also concentrated in our Monday and Thursday workdays which compound the need to restructure. By redistributing our collection routes through the week, Monday through Friday, we will be better able to manage future anticipated growth. Our goal is to create a more balanced work week which will tend to lessen our exposure to job related injury and/or equipment breakdown. We expect the changes to take place in January of 2007.

Our Curbside Recycling Program has 900 customers which is the projection of the number needed to be a self-supporting operation. It has turned out to be the maximum number of customers one truck can handle. The City Commissioners have authorized the Curbside Recycling Program to run for one year while staff considers other options concerning who pays for the service and how much the customer should pay. By June 2007, the City Commission will review the need for the service and how it should be financed.

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility continues to be a popular service that the City offers. Latex paint continues to be the number one material that is being dropped-off for recycling. All the reusable latex is bulked into two colors (light and dark.) This paint is made available to the public through the reuse-it program. This paint is so popular that there is a three month waiting list. Coming this September, Rolling Hills Ranch has a Safari Expo and Sandee Stainbrook, the Coordinator, will have the opportunity to share the value of recycling with 500 students. So far this year we have served 1,819 customers by taking a total of 39,470 pounds of various types of materials. At this point our numbers are down from last year by 96 customers and 2,040 pounds of recycled materials.

D. Expiration of Committee Member 3-Year Terms - (Mike Fraser)

The positions will expire in August of this year. The City Commission will be acting upon the appointment at their meeting on the 21st. Mike Fraser stated that everyone except Sheila Bolieu has expressed interest in serving and have submitted their names for consideration. The Mayor and the City Commissioners will make the decisions. Mike Fraser stated that he was hopeful and optimistic that everyone who had expressed an interest will be reappointed.

E. Report on the Mulching Mower Rebate Program - (Christina Coiner)

The Mulching Mower Program was designed for residents of Saline County to purchase mulching mowers thus providing an incentive to reduce the amount of grass clippings that go to the landfill. Over the past ten years this Program has awarded between \$8,850 and \$15,000 in rebates per year. An analysis of the decline in the amount of rebates from 2000 to 2003 has been done. At that time there was a recommendation to discontinue the Program due to both the availability and the popularity of the mulching mowers, but the Committee recommended to continue it. Most mowers today are three-in-one mowers and have the capability to bag and to mulch. The City of Salina has awarded about \$10,000 a year in rebates over the last 10 years. Fifteen of the local vendors were asked questions to determine their experience with the Mulching Mower Program. The 15 vendors stated that the mowers would be purchased whether or not the rebate was offered. Of the mowers sold, 1% or less are non-mulching mowers. After reviewing the responses from the vendors, it was determined that the popularity and availability of mulching mowers makes the rebate program questionable. Customers tend to purchase the mulching mowers because the mowers are typically a higher quality mower. It is recommended that the Mulching Mower Rebate Program be discontinued.

One member stated it seems that maybe this Program has served its purpose and maybe it is time to do away with it.

Mike Fraser stated that in 2003 the Committee felt that the Program still had value. Last year when we reviewed this topic at the December meeting, the thinking was that more time was needed to make the decision and additional time was needed to follow through with the public and vendors if the decision was to discontinue the Program.

For a fraction of the money we are paying for rebates for mowers that people are going to purchase anyway, we could really divert some of the funds to public education programs where we can do all kinds of neat things. We can be creative in being able to promote yard waste kinds of recycling that people could do themselves. It was stated that perhaps people have forgotten about the Mower Rebate Program.

F. Report on the Solid Waste Collection Method of Pay-as-you-Throw - (Christina Coiner)

This program has been implemented in several states and was originated in Austin, TX. Most people start paying attention to what they are throwing out as it impacts their pocket books. Communities can expect about a 15% reduction in waste going to their landfills with 1/3 of that going to reuse, 1/3 going to recycling, and 1/3 going to reduction. Once residents are impacted financially, they really start paying attention to what they are throwing away. The common problems that most communities face are illegal dumping, resident attitude, education dealing with unstable revenue, and building public consensus. A successful program requires a great deal of planning. First you need to identify your means and goals, curb assistance, and base a pilot program with a realistic outcome.

Mike Fraser stated that at the May Study Session with the City Commission, they talked about a number of solid waste issues. When the issue of curbside recycling program was discussed, some of the comments that were expressed by the City Commission were that they were wondering if there was some other way to finance curbside recycling rather than charging those people who are recycling. There was some discussion on that and wondering if there was some other way or some other type of system such as charging everybody.

The way that we are currently preceding right now is the way that the City Commission wanted us to proceed. Out of that discussion it was brought up that pay-as-you-throw is one of several systems. Usually when you see a pay-as-you-throw system, it is in conjunction with a recycling system of some sort. It gives people options. Rather than saying we are going to charge you for recycling containers and leave it there, the pay-as-you-throw system charges for the different size of containers. With the different size of containers, the citizen has the option to recycle and thus reduce costs.

The City Manager wants to bring pay-as-you-throw back to the City Commission perhaps in a general presentation perhaps within the next month or sometime in September. The City Commission is not comfortable with the finance mechanism for recycling which we have right now. There is a concern that the current system may not be fair by charging those who do recycle more than those who do not recycle.

V. Committee Business

A. Consideration on Continuing the Mulching Mower Rebate Program

Wayne Wagner moved and Mike McClure seconded a motion that the Mower Rebate Program be discontinued and to consider advertising and education as presented by Christina Coiner in her program. The motion passed.

B. Review Applications for the 2006 Solid Waste Venture Grant Program

Dick Blanchard moved and Wayne Wagner seconded a motion that the Committee accepts the Committee's recommendation. The motion passed.

C. Provide Solid Waste Venture Grant Funds to Pay for a City of Salina Composting Sight Study

Dick Blanchard moved and Sandi Johnson seconded a motion to accept the proposal from CDM. The motion passed.

D. Setting the Next Committee Meeting Date in December

Mike will coordinate the next meeting.

VI. Committee Member Open Forum - Comments

There weren't any comments.

VII. Adjournment

Sandie Johnson moved, motion was seconded, that the Committee adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.